

NSA BRIEFING

10 July 1956

RECENT COMMUNIST DEVELOPMENTS

I. Within the USSR:

A. Central Committee resolution of 20 June (published in Pravda 2 July), offered little that was new in analysis of Stalin's role and socialist system in the USSR. Most of its points had already been presented in both Soviet and Eastern Communist statements.

B. Pravda editorial, 4 July, suspended Stalin debate and stressed Party supremacy and iron discipline. As for our country, the Communist Party was, is, and will be the one and only ruler of thoughts, the one to express the ideas and hopes of the people--their leader and organizer throughout their entire struggle for Communism.

C. Supreme Soviet is to convene on 11 July. There are persistent rumors that the Soviet electoral system is to be overhauled, to give voters more than one candidate and to strengthen the regulation governing recall of deputies.

II. Within the European Satellites:

A. The major event: the Poznan riots, 28 June-1 July. Casualties: Polish government figures: 30 dead, over 200 wounded; eyewitness accounts: over 200 dead.

B. The Polish government announced, 29 June, that riot leaders would be punished, but promised economic concessions to workers and continuation of "liberalization" program.

DOCUMENT NO. 4
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1/4/80

C. On 5 July, the Polish ambassador to France (Stanislaw Gajewski) told US and Italian ambassadors that, since publication of the Khrushchev speech, he is prepared to "believe anything" about the Soviets and that he would not defend actions of USSR.

3. Elsewhere in the Satellite:

A. Hungarian central committee resolution, 30 June, sharply condemned anti-Bakosi elements and used "Poznan provocations" as warning.

B. Hungarian broadcast, 3 July, stressed "independence" of Communist parties, and held to Soviet line on "different roads" to socialism.

C. East Germany announced, 30 June, a reduction of "planned" armed forces strength from 120,000 to 90,000. Military service to remain voluntary.

D. Yugoslav press has parroted Bloc line on Poznan riots, calling rioters "enemies of democratic socialist Poland." Jugo warned that Stalinist elements may gain strength as a result.

4. Western Communist Parties' reaction to 30 June central committee resolution ranged from extravagant French praise to Italian and American indications of reservations.

A. L'Humanite 4 July editorial said resolution provided a profound Marxist-Leninist analysis of the personality cult.

1. French Communist delegation, which journeyed to Moscow on 26 June, returned and reported to its central committee on 6 July: central committee unanimously approved Soviet resolution.

B. Togliatti's first reaction (3 July press interview):

"...an extremely important contribution to the elucidation of questions" raised by various parties. Togliatti said he still felt that various opinions were possible on the significance of Stalin's mistakes and their influence on USSR, and urged "frank discussion."

1. Italian Communist delegation left for Moscow on 4 July.

C. On 3 July, Eugene Dennis called Soviet resolution "a most welcome development", said "it goes a long way" in explaining cult of personality. New York Daily Worker said it answered "some" questions, continued: while many Marxists "will feel satisfied with the answers", many others "will feel that the final answers still need to be found and that the discussion must continue."

25X1C D. [REDACTED] for the moment, there is confusion and disorientation in the Dutch, Belgian and Danish Communist parties.

1. A Belgian Communist delegation was in Moscow on 7 July.